



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ROLL CALL

Board Members Present: Darlene Stickel, President; Mark Hottowe, Vice President; Dr. Richard Graham; Steve Wrightson; LeAnne Bremer; Ann Campbell; and, Marilyn Koenninger.

CALL TO ORDER

The ESD 112 Board of Directors' Business meeting was called to order by Darlene Stickel, *President*, at 3:00 p.m. on December 14, 2021 with a quorum of seven members present.

INTRODUCTIONS AND WELCOME OF GUESTS

- Darlene Stickel noted that Cari Wood, *Preschool Inclusion Coordinator*, would be joining the meeting later to provide an ESD Connects report. President Stickel also welcomed guests attending from the Skamania School District.

PROPOSALS FOR ACTION

- **Motion passed** to approve the consent agenda items including minutes of the ESD 112 Board of Directors' Meeting – November 23, 2021; and ESD 112 Personnel Activity Reports for December 2021.
- The ESD 112 Board shared that because the Skamania School District had three open positions and only two elected board members, they were under statutory duty pursuant to RCW 28A.343.370 to appoint someone to fill position no. 5 on the Skamania School Board. Public comments were held on the matter and taken from three meeting attendees; two candidates, Nicole LaVoie and Donald Collins, were interviewed by the ESD 112 Board; and comments were taken from Beth DeSimone, *Skamania School Board Member* and Angus Anderson, *Skamania School Board Chair*.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- The board moved into executive session at 3:52 p.m. to review the qualifications of candidates for appointment to the Skamania School District Board of Directors pursuant to RCW 42.30.110 (1)(h) and was scheduled to end at 4:07 p.m. At 4:07 p.m. President Darlene Stickel returned to the general session and extended the executive session to end at 4:15 p.m.

RECONVENE/ACTION

- The executive session ended at 4:15 p.m. and regular business reconvened at 4:16 p.m.
- **Motion passed** to approve Board Resolution R.21.13 – In the Matter of Appointment of Donald Collins to the Skamania School Board.

REPORTS AND DISCUSSION

- **ESD Connects Report:** ESD Connects co-chair, Cari Wood, *Preschool Inclusion Coordinator*, reported on activities and events led by the group over the last year.
- **Early Head Start and ECEAP Program Monthly Report:** Jodi Wall, *Executive Director for Early Care & Education*, reported the U.S. Department of Health and Human services issued a new Head Start Program Performance Standard to outline the masking and COVID-19 vaccination requirements for grant recipients and the timelines, exceptions, and exemptions for each. The vaccine requirements

align with what was already being done in the program. The new mask requirement applies to children over the age of 2, with some exceptions/exemptions allowed. That practice was being implemented this week. Beginning January 1st, all Head Start programs are required to provide in-person home visits with families. Staff have been offering in-person visits since June and have a plan in place to implement this with all families in 2022. Beginning January 1st, all Head Start programs must work towards full enrollment. The program is currently under enrolled and have increased their outreach efforts within COVID restrictions. The new ECE COVID Coordinator started and has jumped in with both feet. She is excited to join the ESD and has already taken on a number of COVID tasks. The program recently found out they were awarded \$1.128m from DCYF-ARPA funding to support child care programs. A portion of these funds must be spent on workforce recruitment and retention. Work is being done closely with SELF to develop a plan for getting funds to staff and also covering the ongoing costs of the pandemic and the child care crisis across the centers.

- Superintendent's Report: Tim Merlino, *Superintendent*, briefed the board on the following:
 - A. Facilities update: The pending sale with Church and Dwight is expected to close before the end of December. Remodeling has begun in the 2200 building and is expected to be completed by the middle of March. Permits have been submitted to begin work on expanding the ESD112 Conference Center.
 - B. Legislative Forum: The ESD 112 Region Legislative Forum was held on December 3rd. Seven legislators participated to hear school district perspectives on COVID impacts. Enrollment stabilization for school districts was a priority request.
 - C. COVID Update: School district staff are tired and ready for the winter break. Health department doctors continue to be worried about increased COVID cases after the holidays. Several outbreaks have occurred recently amongst athletes participating in sporting events.
 - D. Annual Audit: ESD 112's annual audit is scheduled to begin on January 24, 2022. There will be a focus on federal programs this year.
 - E. Superintendent's Schedule: Superintendent Merlino will be taking time off over the winter break.

- Employee Acknowledgements and Recognition: Monique Dugaw, *Executive Director for Communications and Public Engagement*, shared a presentation highlighting employees who received acknowledgements and appreciation of work accomplished. The presentation showcased the following staff members and events:
 - A. Holiday Giving: ESD Connects members were recognized for their efforts organizing and preparing donated gifts and grocery gift cards for adopted families.

PUBLIC AND BOARD COMMENTS

- Public Comments: There were no requests made to make public comments.
- Correspondence
- ESD 112 Legislative Forum: LeAnne Bremer attended and commented on the event.

CALENDAR

- ESD 112 Board of Directors' Business Meeting – TBD – January 25, 2022 – 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm
- WASA/WSSDA/WASBO Legislative Conference and Day on the Hill – Olympia, WA – January 30-31, 2022
- AESD Executive Board Meeting – Zoom – February 8, 2022 – 9:00 am – 10:30 am
- Third Year Accreditation – Zoom – February 22, 2022 – 11:00 am – 2:45 pm
- ESD 112 Board of Directors' Business Meeting – TBD – February 22, 2022 – 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm
- WASA Small Schools Conference – Wenatchee, WA – March 21-22, 2022
- ESD 112 Board of Directors' Annual Retreat – TBD – March 28, 2022 – 8:30 am – 4:30 pm
- ESD 112 Board of Directors' Business Meeting – TBD – March 29, 2022 – 8:30 am – 12:00 pm
- ESD 112 Board of Directors' Business Meeting – TBD – April 26, 2022 – 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm
- AESD Annual Conference – Hyatt Regency Lake Washington – April 27-29, 2022

BOARD SUCCESSION PLANNING

- Board members discussed their timelines for serving on the board.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:06 p.m.



For questions, please contact Wendy Niehaus, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent, at (360) 952-3318 or email: wendy.niehaus@esd112.org. Approved minutes of the Board of Directors' meetings are kept in the ESD 112 Administration Offices and are public record.